

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, August 17, 2007

Notes of Interest:

Storm Water workshop: The Public Works Department was pleased with turnout at its workshop Thursday on how to keep unwanted material out of the City's storm drains. About 100 representatives from local businesses and agencies attended the four-hour workshop at Hutchins Street Square.

LAFCO sphere policy: Randy Hatch, Lodi's community development director, sent LAFCO a letter expressing the City's reservations with a proposed LAFCO policy that would not allow designated open space within a City's sphere of influence. City staff believes the policy, if adopted, would encourage a development arms race between cities to beat the other to control open land. More on this topic at Tuesday's Shirtsleeve Session.

CT-1 sale progress: Negotiations continue between City staff and Roseville over selling Lodi's interest in the CT-1 power plant. Roseville would like a deal sweetener and has threatened to shelve the proposed sale. Lodi wants to keep its eye on the \$3.25 million in upfront cash when the deal goes through but doesn't want to leave any money on the table. We are hopeful that the deal will be presented to the NCPA for approval as soon as possible.

HR manager: City staff will pare down the list of applicants for human resources manager to three finalists this week.

Sales tax flat: This major source of City revenue did not grow in 2006-2007. Construction-related spending took a large drop, but that is not a problem unique to Lodi. San Joaquin County saw a drop overall. One thing to keep in mind, is that Lowe's, on the heels of Home Depot, worked a special deal with the Board of Equalization to delay payment for a quarter. They will return to the top 25 sales tax producers next quarter. However, even accounting for Lowe's if they would have paid, there was a drop in construction related spending and sales tax.

LCVB and sports: Mayor Johnson, City Manager King and Parks and Rec Supervisor Mike Reese met with the LCVB board on Thursday. Some board members have expressed their concern that the city does not do enough to attract major sports tournaments and events. City staff explained that the sports organizations are the ones that choose the sites, and Lodi's aging facilities do not compare well against more modern fields in other cities.